Accelerated water supply Programme and Mimimum Needs Programme in Maharashtra

8296. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAM. BHAJIRAO SHDSTDE: WiU the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has sought parity in the water supply costs nonms of Acclerated Water Supply Programme and Minimum Needs Programme;

(b) if so, on what grounds; and

(c) what is Government response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL, DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To maintain uniformity in the water supply costs norms of Accelarated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Minimum Needs Pmgramme (MNP).

(c) Powers have been delegated to the States/UT Govemments for approval of the schemes upto the *per capita* cost ceiling as approved under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme.

Lonar Eclipse

8297. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: WiU the PRIME MLNISTER be pleas-ed to state:

(a) whether it is a flact that the Lunar Eclipse Occurring on April 3-4 1996 which will be visible in India has been shown as invisible in India by the India Meteorological Department in their annuial publication. "The Indian Astronomical Ephemeris for 1995" which created a chaos among the ussrs; ifso; the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the pubUqations of the "Inian Astronomical Ephemeris" and the Rashtriya Panchangs by the India Meteorological Department, now being delayed by about six months, resulting in the non-availability of advance astronomical data to the Panchang makers:

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Govt, for their timely publication; and

(d) how many States have since Pdopted correct system of astronomi cal aaloulations in declaring holidays m their States and what steps are being envisaged by Government to fulfil this objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir. This preliminary announcement was made on the basis of an international publication by Her Ma--jesty's Stationery Office, London. This was later found incorrect by India Meteorological Department (IMD) and a corrigendum was immediately circulated amongst the users of Indian Astronomical Ephemeris. As the eclipse is to occur in the year 1996, the details regarding its visibility over Indian will be published in the 1996 edition of Indian Astronomical Ephemeris.

(b) and (c): No, Sir. The "Indian Astronomical Ephemeris" (IAE) for 1995 was published in November, 1994 Astronomical diata to the Panchang makers are made available well on advance on their request. All the thirteen language editions of Rashtriya Panchang have already been pub. lisfied this year.

(d) The dates pf festivals reported in the Indian Astronomical Ephemeris (IAE) are determined on the basis of